**Creation of economic zones for NRIs**

989. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 453 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the view points of the various State Governments have been elicited in regard to creation of economic zones for NRIs and if so, their reaction thereto; and

(b) the package of incentives and concessions proposed to be offered to the NRIs for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The idea of Special Economic Zones for NRIs is still in a very initial stage of consideration.

***SC/ST/OBC in Government services***

†990. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in Group 'A' 'B' and 'C' category in Government services;

(b) whether the number of persons belonging to the reserved category is low on the basis of Constitution; and

(c) if so, whether Government would launch a special drive to fill the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes in Group A, Group B and Group C posts and services of the Government of India as on 1.1.2003 is 10256, 26040 and 345718 respectively. The number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in these posts and services as on 1.1.2003 is 3593, 7863 and 138685 respectively. Information regarding the number of Other Backward Classes in services has not been Centrally maintained.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Some posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes could not be filled by candidates belonging to these categories because of non-availability of suitable candidates, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Vacant posts of SCs/STs**

†991. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which are lying vacant in various Departments of Central Government for more than one year, Ministry-wise;

(b) whether Government have issued any directions for filling up of the said vacant posts; and

(c) if so, by when the above posts are proposed to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Information is not Centrally maintained.

(b) The Government issued instructions *vide* Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. No. 36012/5/97-Estt. (Res.) Vol.II dated 20th July, 2000 requesting all Ministries/Departments to carry out a review for early assessment of the backlog vacancies in respect of SCs and STs both by way of direct recruitment and promotion and make concerted efforts to fill up backlog vacancies.

(c) All Ministries/Department are required to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies at the earliest.

**Purchase of computers by Kendriya Bhandar**

992. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kendriya Bhandar is still purchasing computers, HP cartridges and other branded items at higher prices from retailers instead of manufacturers and authorized distributors in contravention of the revised purchase policy-2003; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.